GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1279
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Free Text Books under SSA
Tripathi Shri Sharad

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated by the Government to provide free text books to the students under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the last three years, State/ UT-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether any criteria has been formulated for the distribution of text books and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the text books are being procured from the private publishers also apart from the NCERT;

(d) whether the text books provided by the private publishers fulfil the fixed criteria; and
(e) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates free and compulsory education for all children in Government schools. In pursuance of this Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports provision for textbooks to all children in Government/local body and Government aided schools, including Madrasa desirous of introducing State curriculum, within the upper ceiling if Rs. 150/- per child at primary level and Rs. 250/- at upper primary level. States that have been providing textbooks to children under State sector scheme and budget since 2007-08 will continue to fund textbooks provided from the State plan. Details of funds allocated by the Government to provide free text books to the students under SSA during the last three years, State/UT wise and year-wise is at Annexure.
(c) & (d): Education is in the Concurrent List and the majority of schools are under the purview of State Governments/ UT Administrations. It is for the States and UTs to take appropriate action in the matter of regulating the provision of textbooks to the children under their jurisdiction. Some States have either adopted or adapted the National Council for Educational Research Training books while other States have developed their own textbooks as per the guidelines of the National Curriculum Framework-2005 which are published by the Government press or private publisher.

(e): No, Madam.
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